

Resolution No.:

Introduced: February 4, 2003

Adopted: February 4, 2003

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Knapp, Leventhal, and Perez

Subject: Support for Inner Purple Line between Bethesda and New Carrollton and Corridor Cities Transitway

Background

1. On December 3, 2002 the County Council affirmed its support for the Inner Purple Line, a 14-mile light rail line from Bethesda to New Carrollton also serving Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, Langley Park, the University of Maryland, College Park, Riverdale, and several other communities. The Inner Purple Line will provide needed congestion relief and promote revitalization of the business and residential communities through which it passes, and will provide much improved access for working families and college students who have no alternative form of transportation.
2. On December 3, 2002 the Council also affirmed its support for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), a 13.5-mile busway or light rail line between Shady Grove to Clarksburg, which will also serve Rockville, Gaithersburg and Germantown. The CCT is an integral part of the Shady Grove, Gaithersburg & Vicinity, Germantown, and Clarksburg Master Plans. These plans rely on the CCT to provide an anchor for transit-oriented development in this portion of the I-270 Corridor.
3. On January 8, 2003 the Montgomery County Council President requested the Planning Board to evaluate by January 31, 2003 an alternative proposed by the County Executive: a heavy rail connection between the Medical Center and Silver Spring Metrorail Stations via the Capital Beltway, linking the trains now terminating at Grosvenor and Silver Spring and forming a continuous loop route, dubbed the 'Purple Line Loop.'
4. On January 27, 2003 the staff of the Planning Board issued its report, recommending that the Purple Line Loop not be carried forward for detailed study.
5. On January 30, 2003 the Planning Board, after holding a public forum and a worksession with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Public Works and Transportation, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and Maryland Transit Administration staffs reaffirmed its support for the Inner Purple Line and recommended that the Purple Line Loop not be carried forward for detailed study. Furthermore, it recommended that the County Council pursue construction funding in the upcoming federal surface transportation bill reauthorization for the Bethesda-to-Silver Spring portion of the Inner Purple Line and its parallel trail. On January 31, 2003 the Council received a letter from the Planning Board stating its recommendation and specific rationale.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council urges the Governor and the Maryland Congressional Delegation to seek construction funding for the Inner Purple Line from Bethesda to New Carrollton and the Corridor Cities Transitway from Shady Grove to Clarksburg. The designs should include cost-effective mitigations of environmental impacts.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Mary A. Edgar, CMC
Clerk of the Council